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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s):	A.S. Krishnakumar et al.
Case:	15-5
Serial No.:	09/991,415
Filing Date:	November 16, 2001
Group:	2662
Examiner:	To Be Assigned

> I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.
>
> Signature: _[signature]_ Date: <u>March 29, 2002</u>

Title: Priority Access for Real-Time Traffic in Contention-Based Networks

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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box Non-Fee Amendment

RECEIVED

APR 1 6 2002

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Submitted herewith is the following document relating to the above-identified patent application:
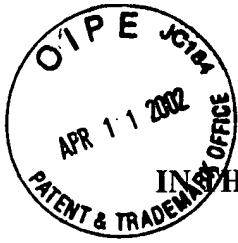
(1) Preliminary Amendment.

There is no additional fee due in conjunction with the Amendment. In the event of any non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or to credit **Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0762** as required to correct the error.

Respectfully submitted,

[signature]

Date: March 29, 2002

Joseph B. Ryan
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 37,922
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-7517

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): A.S. Krishnakumar et al.
Case: 15-5
Serial No.: 09/991,415
Filing Date: November 16, 2001
Group: 2662
Examiner: To Be Assigned

Title: Priority Access for Real-Time Traffic in Contention-Based Networks

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Preferred embodiments of the invention include a mechanism for enforcing the time separation between the various chains and also include a mechanism for enforcing a predetermined maximum number of stations that each chain can have, in order to allow non-real-time stations to obtain timely access to the medium. Moreover, preferred embodiments account for the fact that the time separation between any two of the chains, even if initially set at an amount which does provide for timely access for non-real-time stations, is subject to change over time due to such factors as stations becoming active and inactive and, in the case of non-pre-emptive systems, due further to the fact that the initiation of the access to the medium by a particular chain may be delayed by the presence of a non-real-time data transmission. In particular, preferred embodiments include